

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXII

FEBRUARY, 1955

NUMBER 2

More Study Urged On Feather River Project

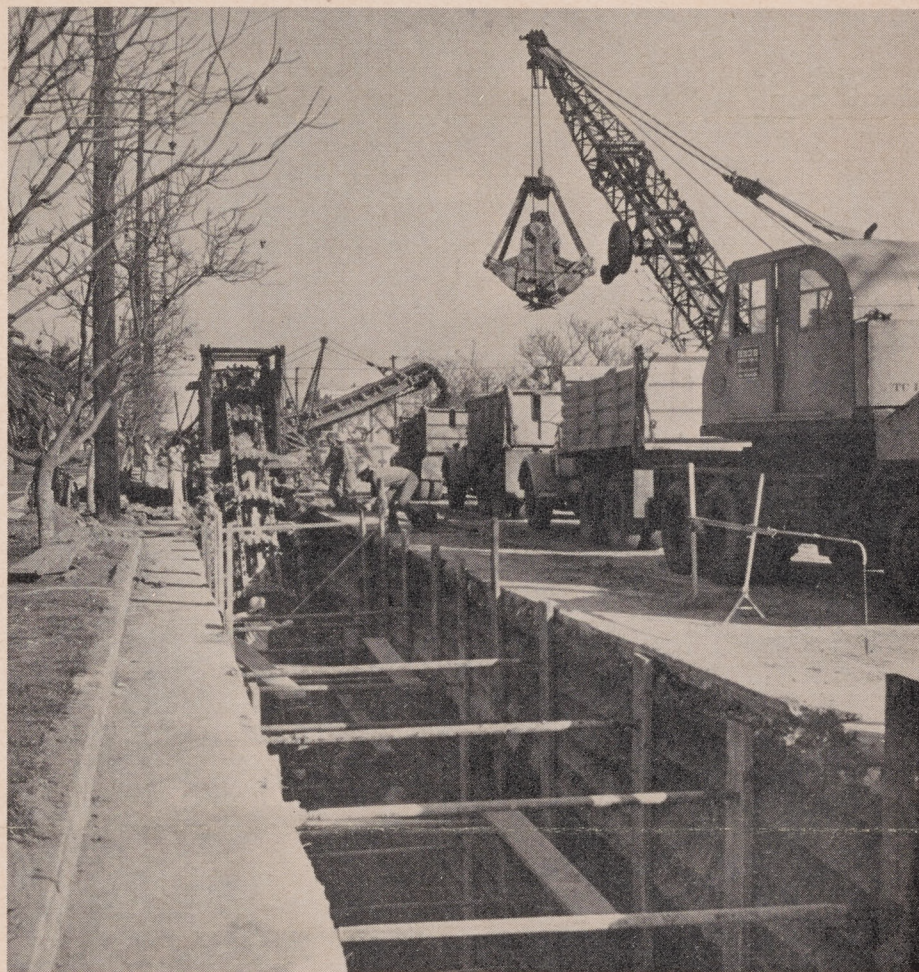
Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District, outlined the District's position on the proposed Feather River Project in a talk made before a meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority on February 17, 1955. Mr. Diemer's remarks were as follows:

"The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District in a resolution adopted November 29, 1954, stated that, in addition to water available from the Colorado River, it will in the future be desirable to bring from areas of surplus in the northerly part of California, water for use in Southern California. The Board also made it plain that the Feather River Project appears to offer the best means of accomplishing such a transfer.

"Metropolitan Water District officers and Board members are well aware of the fact that Southern California people, by reason of the population and assessed valuation of the areas south of the Tehachapi Mountains, would be called upon to pay one-half or more of the cost of the Feather River Project as now being proposed. The Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors takes the position that before the taxpayers and water users of Southern California are to be committed to bear one-half or more of the cost of a statewide water project, our people must have a firm assurance of a permanent right to a definite quantity of water from the areas of surplus to the north.

"Our Board does not favor the appropriation of State funds to acquire rights of way and start construction of the Feather River Project until the water rights of the Counties of Origin and of the service areas in Southern California have been determined.

"State Engineer A. D. Edmonston in his report on the financing and construct-



Construction work on the Aqueduct expansion program continues to move ahead rapidly. Above is shown a Buckeye Trenching Machine in operation at 91st Street, east of San Pedro Street. This line is a part of the middle cross-feeder.

ing of the Feather River Project which was made public February 16, makes the recommendation that 16 million dollars be appropriated by the State Legislature to buy rights of way and start construction work on the project. We do not feel that the taxpayers and water users of Southern California can be committed to a tax cost of eight million dollars or more until legislative steps have been taken to determine what amount of water may per-

manently be available to Southern California from the Counties of Origin. We fully appreciate the determination of the Counties of Origin to safeguard for their future use the water which they may ultimately require. By the same token, we maintain the people of Southern California must have a definite assurance of a permanent and equitable water supply before they can be expected to assume tax

(Continued on Page Two)

• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 West Third Street
 Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

VOL. XXII FEBRUARY, 1955 No. 2

Feather River Project

(Continued from Page One)

obligations that ultimately would amount to a billion dollars or more.

"The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District in its November resolution also set forth that a coastal route alternate to the high lift route over the Tehachapi Mountains should be further studied before a final commitment is made as to the route that will be followed by the Feather River aqueduct. These studies should be made with the purpose of determining the most effective and economic methods of transporting water from the northerly to the southerly part of the State and for the purpose of determining the best method of coordinating delivery and distribution of this water with existing and projected water distributing systems in the service areas of the Metropolitan Water District. This District includes 2691 square miles in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. It has a population of 6,000,000 and an assessed valuation of \$8,000,000,000.

"The development of California's water supply for the benefit of all our people, north and south, is a responsibility of prime importance to our water officials and legislators. In carrying forward such a great task we ought to do first things first. We need to establish on a permanent and equitable basis the amount of water needed in the northerly and southerly portions of the State and the amounts of water which may be available to these areas on a permanent basis. We need to have this determination made before we authorize the expenditure of State funds to start construction work.

"We need to know more about a coastal route for a Feather River line to bring water into service areas of Southern California before the Legislature is asked to vote State funds for the wholesale purchase of rights of ways and the starting of construction work."



Director Nelson Hayward

Nelson Hayward Is New District Director

Nelson Hayward was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District on February 8. He represents the Foothill Municipal Water District which was admitted to the Metropolitan Water District in 1953.

Mr. Hayward was born in London, England in 1886. He came to the United States in 1910 and engaged in the field of mechanical engineering in Denver, Colorado for one year. He then settled in southern Idaho and became a United States citizen in 1917.

After serving a number of years in various agriculture and irrigation duties, Mr. Hayward came to California in 1928. Here he managed a large farm and irrigation enterprise in Glenn and Colusa Counties in the Sacramento Valley.

In 1929 he was invited into management of the Ray Oil Burner Company of San Francisco and in 1933 was made Executive Vice President, Director and General Manager.

He retired from business in 1945 and came to Southern California. He located in La Crescenta in 1947, and in 1949 he was invited to become a Director of the Mountain Water Company.

He thereafter took a leading part in the formation of two public agencies to bring Colorado River water to all of the Foothill areas north of Pasadena and Glendale.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed February 1955, covering District operations for January 1955.)

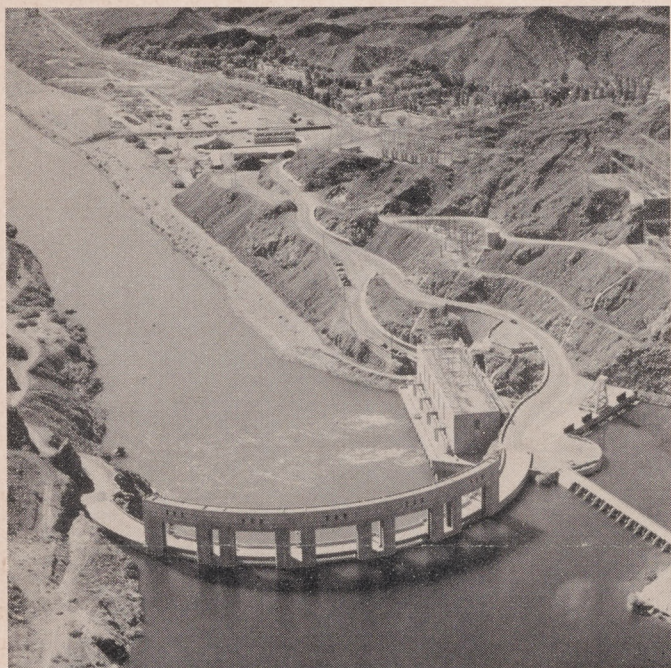
Colorado River — The water level in Lake Mead dropped 4.71 feet during January to a new low elevation of 1100.77 feet, and a new minimum of usable storage of 12,305,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 453,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam the discharge was at the rate of 12,000 cubic feet per second in January, as compared with 11,730 for December. Lake Havasu varied in elevation from 447.7 to 444.3 feet, with an average discharge at Parker Dam of 12,000 cfs as compared with 10,550 in December.

Power and Pumping System — Pumping at Hayfield was continuous on a two-pump basis. Water pumped at Hayfield was 24,373 acre-feet. Peak delivery to the Edison system was 126,500 kw.

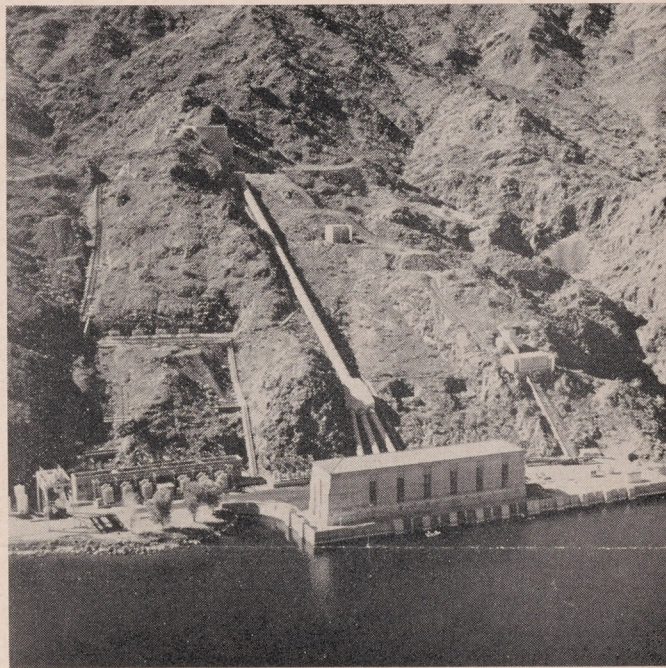
Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant — Colorado River water was softened from 329 to 125 parts of hardness per million at an average rate of 113 cfs. The daily rate of flow varied from a minimum of 87 to a maximum of 131 cfs. Total water treated was 6828 acre-feet.

Construction — On the middle cross-feeder and Inglewood lateral, the contractor laid 1602 lineal feet of 79-inch pipe during the month for a total to date of 1833 feet. On the lower feeder 4024 lineal feet of 108-inch precast concrete pipe between Cajalco tunnel and Corona, and 3232 lineal feet through the City of Corona. On the San Juan tunnel the contractor excavated 806 feet of tunnel for a total to date of 4696 feet, or 69 per cent of the excavation. On the West Orange County feeder 7164 lineal feet of 43-inch welded steel pipe was laid for a total to date of 44,355 feet, or 97 per cent of the schedule. On the pumping plant expansion, the contractor on the installation of pumping units 4 and 5 completed pouring the concrete pump-casing blocks at Intake and Gene plants. Contractor on the pump delivery lines completed excavation of the 6-foot diameter delivery lines on the south side of Intake plant. At Gene plant the installation of the 6-foot branch lines was completed and 39 lineal feet of 10-foot diameter steel line constructed. Work continued on the construction of anchor blocks and rocker support foundations.

Purchasing — Total expenditures covered by 374 purchase orders and one agreement issued during January amount to \$105,947.



This spectacular air view is one of the best ever taken upstream from Parker Dam which forms Lake Havasu on the Colorado River. Parker Power Plant is shown at lower right and beyond is the road leading to Parker Dam Village.



Air view of Whitsett Intake Pumping Plant, which is located on the California shoreline of Lake Havasu, two miles upstream from Parker Dam. The plant's delivery line is shown as it extends up to the first of a series of Aqueduct tunnels.

Upper Colorado River Basin Project May Threaten Rainbow Bridge Letter Reveals

Another famous national monument, Rainbow Bridge, is threatened by the Upper Colorado River Basin Project, now before Congress, Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the District's Board of Directors, said in a recent letter to Congressman Craig Hosmer, of Long Beach.

Congressman Hosmer is a member of the House Interior Committee which will hold hearings on bills seeking to authorize the so-called Upper Colorado River Basin Project.

Mr. Jensen took issue with recent statements made by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, that measures planned by the Bureau of Reclamation would protect the great natural arch from destruction from water which would be impounded behind the proposed Glen Canyon Dam.

Mr. Jensen told Rep. Hosmer that because of porous rock in the area where the proposed \$400 million Glen Canyon Dam would be built, that water would "migrate" around the dam and create an underground body of water "vastly more extensive" than the great reservoir behind the dam.

Glen Canyon Dam is a key structure in the proposed multi-billion dollar Upper Colorado Project. It would be built only 50 miles below Rainbow Bridge National Monument, and the reservoir behind the dam would continue a hundred miles up-

stream above the national monument.

Secretary McKay recently wrote in a letter to Dave Brower, Executive Secretary of the Sierra Club, that a barrier dam a mile below the monument would provide "adequate protection" for the world famous natural bridge.

In his letter to Rep. Hosmer, Mr. Jensen took exception to this statement, and said:

"I question whether such a barrier dam would provide adequate protection for Rainbow Bridge National Monument, as this barrier dam would be built in nothing other than porous sandstone. Just as the water will seep around the Glen Canyon Dam, so will it seep around the ends of the barrier dam, and if the elevation of the water in the Glen Canyon Dam reservoir is as high as that of the Rainbow Bridge, then the water will encroach to the bridge itself. All of these natural bridges owe their lives to the dry climate of the area. Moisture and water in any quantity would be fatal to their future life."

Another dam in the Upper Colorado River Project would flood a part of Dinosauro National Monument. Vigorous protests against this dam, called Echo Park, have been made, and it will be the subject of bitter controversy in the present Congress.

Speaking of the rock conditions in

Glen Canyon and Rainbow Bridge areas, Mr. Jensen told Rep. Hosmer:

"Since all of these sandstones have been drained dry by the Colorado River, it follows that when the reservoir is being filled, the water will seep out into these sandstones for miles. It would take a long time to fill the porous sandstones before any water could again flow down the river.

"The reservoir might never be filled, nor be usable for major power development."

In the letter to Mr. Brower, Secretary McKay set forth that the foundations at the proposed Glen Canyon Dam site "were poorly cemented and relatively weak . . . in comparison with the foundations common to most high dams."

Secretary McKay declared that after Congress had authorized Glen Canyon Dam, the Bureau of Reclamation would make further studies to determine what kind and size dam might be built. Thus, Congress was being asked to approve a \$400 million dam pending further engineering studies.

Mr. Jensen wrote Rep. Hosmer:

"No modifications in the height of the dam can cure the fact that a reservoir built entirely in porous sandstone rock will not hold water.

"Certainly you have a right to demand that, because of the importance of the Glen Canyon Dam site, nothing be authorized and no money appropriated until the safety and certainty of building a dam in Glen Canyon has been determined."

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Don Brooks, Junior Engineer, became a blushing bridegroom on February 21 when he was married to Miss Gilda Kastner in a civil ceremony in Hollywood. A number of Don's friends gave a bachelor dinner for him in the Biltmore Hotel California Room on February 17. On the afternoon of the 21st, District employees presented him with a carpet sweeper, a Dormeyer Food Mixer with attachments, and a wall can opener. Don and his bride are living in Los Angeles.

Mr. Ben A. Eddy, formerly an Engineer with the District, was a recent visitor to the Los Angeles office. Ben was with the District in the early days on the location of the Aqueduct and on the construction of the San Jacinto tunnel.

He is now retired from the Corps of Engineers, Rivers and Harbors Department, Portland District in Oregon. Ben and his wife are taking a trip through Arizona and Mexico and stopped in Los Angeles to renew old friendships.

* * *

Marvin Stephens, Junior Engineer, and President of the Board of Control of the Employees Association, has announced that the District Red Cross fund campaign will be conducted during the month of March. He urges everyone to contribute generously to the drive, as the Red Cross is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions and is not a part of the Community Chest.

Last year District employees or their immediate families received 38 pints of blood from the Red Cross Blood Bank. The District has a credit at the blood bank which makes blood available immediately when needed. This is just one of the many services of the Red Cross.

Gilbert Jones, Associate Engineer, and his wife, Hazel, started learning the joys of parenthood early. Early in the morning, that is—when their new daughter, Carol Elizabeth, arrived at 4:00 A.M. at the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital on February 22. The young lady weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces and is the couple's first child.

* * *

E. W. Rockwell, Chief Electrical Engineer, lost his father, Edward I. Rockwell, who passed away at the age of 91 this month. A number of Mr. Rockwell's friends in the District attended the funeral services which were held February 23 at the Chapel of the Chimes, Inglewood Park Cemetery.

* * *

Tom Craig, Utility Man at Iron Mountain, and his wife, Veda, have a brand new addition at their house. He is Thomas Edward Craig, born at St. Vincent's Hospital in Los Angeles on February 13. He weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and is the first boy for the Craigs.



Rose Marie Reinhart, Switchboard Operator in the Los Angeles Office, and Jack Wooley, Filter Operator at the Softening and Filtration Plant, were married in Las Vegas on February 21. They received a number of nice wedding gifts from fellow employees at both locations, including an electric coffee maker, a pressure cooker, \$25 in cash, and a combination waffle iron and grill. The happy couple are making their home in San Dimas.